National Horticulture Mission

3871. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced to launch a National Horticulture Mission for development of horticulture in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to develop horiticulture in Assam as well as North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have announced to launch a National Horticulture Mission for development of horticulture in the country.

(b) The proposed Mission envisages an end to end approach for addressing the issues on Horticultural Research, Development, Post Harvest Management, Processing and Marketing with a view to improve the production and productivity of the horticultural crops and income of the farmers.

As regards development of horticulture in the North Eastern Region including Assam a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal is being implemented separately since 2001-02.

Entry of Private Farm Produce Markets

3872. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a plan for facilitating the entry of private farm produce markets to link the farmer directly to the consumer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Setting up of Agricultural Markets